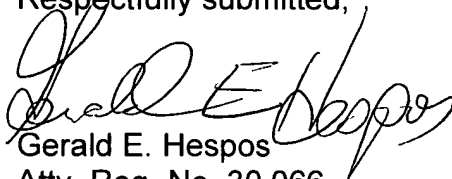equal to the distance between the points of the point cloud for defining an optimal manufacturable shape for the exhaust system component.

## REMARKS

Counsel noted the use of a term in original claim 1 that would have given rise to a rejection under 35 USC 112. Claim 1 has been amended to ensure that each term has proper antecedent basis. Early and favorable action on the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 12, 2002

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"Version with markings to show changes made."

--1.    (amended) A method for designing a component of an exhaust system, the method comprising:

designing an original configuration for the exhaust system component; converting the configuration to a three-dimensional mesh; deforming the three-dimensional mesh to define an optimal theoretical shape for the exhaust system component to optimize natural frequencies of the exhaust system component; defining the three-dimensional mesh as a plurality of intersecting flat surfaces; projecting a two-dimensional point cloud onto the optimal theoretical shape; smoothing intersections of the [panels] flat surfaces between the points of the projected point cloud to define curves with a bend radius substantially equal to the distance between the points of the point cloud for defining an optimal manufacturable shape for the exhaust system component.--